

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (New): A projection optical system which projects luminous flux from an image forming element which forms an original image onto a projection plane, the projection optical system comprising:

    a first reflecting portion which is disposed the closest to the projection plane in an optical path from the image forming element to the projection plane out of a plurality of reflecting portions with curvatures;

    a second reflecting portion which is disposed second closest to the projection plane in the optical path out of the reflecting portions,

    a third reflecting portion which is disposed third closest to the projection plane in the optical path out of the reflecting portions,

    wherein the first reflecting portion, the second reflecting portion and the third reflecting portion are different from one another;

    a reference axis is defined as a path of a central principal ray which is a principal ray of luminous flux from the center of the original image to the center of a finally formed image projected onto the projection plane, and the reference axis on an incident side and the reference axis on an emerging side of the projection optical system are oblique to each other; and

the reference axis between the second reflecting portion and the third reflecting portion intersects with the reference axis between the first reflecting portion and the projection plane.

Claim 25 (New): The projection optical system according to claim 24, wherein a spacing between the second reflecting portion and the third reflecting portion is at least 2.5 times larger than a width of luminous flux incident on the third reflecting portion.

Claim 26 (New): The projection optical system according to claim 24, wherein luminous flux from the image forming element forms an intermediate image between the image forming element and the projection plane; and in a plane including the reference axis, a size of the intermediate image is 2.5 to 7 times of the original image formed by the image forming element.

Claim 27 (New): The projection optical system according to claim 24, wherein the reference axis on the incident side forms an angle of 30 degrees or more with the reference axis on the emerging side.

Claim 28 (New): The projection optical system according to claim 24, wherein each of the reflecting portions is formed of a mirror.

Claim 29 (New): The projection optical system according to claim 24,

wherein the following expression is satisfied:

$$L > 7Y$$

where L represents a maximum spacing between two adjacent reflecting portions along the reference axis of the reflecting portions and Y represents a size of the original image in a plane including the reference axis.

Claim 30 (New): The projection optical system according to claim 24,

wherein a maximum field angle on the incidence side or a maximum field angle on the emerging side of the projection optical system is equal to or larger than 20 degrees.

Claim 31 (New): The projection optical system according to claim 24,

wherein a normal line to the image forming element is substantially perpendicular to a normal line to the projection plane.

Claim 32 (New): A projection type image display apparatus comprising:

an image forming element which forms an original image; and  
the projection optical system according to claim 24.

Claim 33 (New): An image display system comprising:

the projection type image display apparatus according to claim 32; and  
an image information supply apparatus which supplies the projection type image display apparatus with image information for displaying the original image on the image forming element.